



Technical Mapping Advisory Council

Minutes Teleconference Meeting September 29, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the Chairman. All Council members were present, along with FEMA staff and others, as follows:

Members

Mark Riebau, ASCE, Chairman
Peggy Bowker, NFDA
Mike Buckley, FEMA-MT
Charlie Challstrom, NOAA
Kari Craun, USGS
Kevin Hickey, Fannie May
Don Hull, AASG
Brian Hyde, ASFPM
Wendy Lathrop, ACSM
Al LeQuang, Freddie Mac
Mike Moye, NationsBank

Others

Cindy Croxdale, FEMA-MT
Bill DeGroot, NAFSMA, Technical
Advisor
Meredith Francois, Michael Baker Corp.
John Gambel, FEMA-MT
Mike Grimm, FEMA-MT
Mark Haskins, Illinois Department of
Natural
Resources
Sally Magee, FEMA-MT
Matthew Miller, FEMA-MT
Mary Jean Pajak, FEMA-MT
Jeff Sparrow, Dewberry & Davis

Minutes, August 17-18, 1998

Following discussion, Charles Challstrom moved to approve the minutes of the August 17-18 meeting as amended during discussion. Wendy Lathrop seconded the motion, which carried.

Status of Annual Report

Discussion of the assignments for the 1998 Annual Report revealed that:

1. Don Hull is preparing a subsection on distribution of paper maps;
2. Brian Hyde, with input from others, has submitted text for Chapters 3, 4, and 5. These are not complete. Additional input is needed for Chapter 5 (assigned to Mark Riebau), and the draft should be distributed to members for comment before further work is done.
3. Wendy Lathrop has submitted text for Chapters 3 and 5, and will revise text discussing the Elevation Certificate.

Member Organizations

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping • American Society of Civil Engineers • Association of State Floodplain Managers
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation • Federal National Mortgage Association • National Flood Determination Association • NationsBank, a regulated lender
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

4. Kari Craun has submitted text for three recommendations.
5. Kevin Hickey has submitted biographical information.
6. Mike Buckley/Matt Miller will review and revise the section giving background on the mapping program.
7. Mark Riebau is working on Future Directions and the Foreword.
8. Peggy Bowker is working on Chapter 6.
9. Melba Gandy is summarizing the Minutes for "Activities and Accomplishments."

The Chair directed that the recording secretary compile the material submitted to date and distribute it to the Council by Monday, October 5, 1998. The Council will review it and return comments by the close of business on October 9. Comments will be incorporated and draft 2 will be distributed on Wednesday, October 14. Another round of revisions are to be submitted by October 28, and draft 3 will be distributed before the November 3 teleconference meeting. At that meeting, issues will be resolved and minor cleanup done.

Kari Craun reported that recommendations she submitted include references to the Modernization Plan technical objectives to which they relate. She also questioned the format of the recommendations, asking for comments on whether the Council wants to include explanatory language as both she and Wendy Lathrop have done in their submissions. The Chairman replied that it will be easier to respond after the Council sees the recommendations in context in the draft.

Brian Hyde clarified that he, Kari Craun, Wendy Lathrop, and Mark Riebau are contributing to Chapter 4, and suggested that this group attempt to resolve the issue of format after a draft is distributed and before the November 3 conference call. The group agreed by acclamation.

Agenda for November 3 Teleconference

1. Action on Minutes of September 29 Teleconference meeting
2. Annual Report
 - a. Status
 - b. Format of Recommendations
 - c. Inclusion of charts to reduce length of text
3. Agenda for December meeting
4. Status of the Map Service Center contract.

Brian Hyde suggested including in the Agenda a discussion of the relationship of the Modernization Plan to the Council's charge. Mike Buckley suggested that such a discussion also could be included in the revision of the Introduction, and Mark Riebau suggested that a paragraph or page could be added to each Chapter to tie in the relationship. Bryan Hyde clarified that it would be helpful to distinguish between items within the Council's purview and those that relate only to the Modernization Plan. Matt Miller replied that the items should be the same, and Brian Hyde countered that FEMA's Modernization Plan would then be identical to the Council's plan. Kari Craun questioned whether the relationship issue referred only to the Modernization Plan objectives, or to the November document as well. Mark Riebau responded that the discussion referred to the November document as expanded by the more specific objectives. Matt Miller concurred, noting that the objectives were designed to spell out what FEMA would

do about the recommendations in the Council's reports. The colloquy concluded with no specific resolution to the initial request to add to the Agenda of the teleconference meeting a discussion about including a section in the Report on the relationship of the Modernization Plan to the Council's charge.

Distribution and Use of the Annual Report

Don Hull requested discussion about distribution and making better use of the Annual Report. Matt Miller suggested that it be given to FEMA Web-ready for posting on the FEMA Website as the most efficient and cost-effective method of distribution. The Chairman agreed to add this subject to the December 7-8 agenda.

Future Meetings

Mike Buckley will provide a definitive answer to the availability of the Heinz Center for the Council's meeting on December 7-8. Charles Challstrom kindly offered the use of a conference room at NOAA in Silver Spring if the Heinz Center is not available.

The Agenda for December will include (1) final work on the Annual Report; (2) discussion of distribution and use of the Report; (3) Agenda and site for a March meeting; and (4) pilot projects that demonstrate implementation of one or more Modernization Plan objectives; (5) a presentation by FEMA on the merits of an orthophoto map background vs. a line background and other DOQ issues; and (6) status report on progress toward meeting Modernization Plan objectives.

Matt Miller reported that he is meeting next week with a community (Jefferson County) in Kentucky that has done good mapping work, and suggested that the Council participate in a formal recognition and signing ceremony with the community in March. He also offered to call Brian Hyde "offline" to discuss the various interests Mr. Hyde has expressed in the meeting.

The Chairman reiterated that John Beyke, Director of Engineering for the Louisville and Jefferson Counties MSD, would like for the Council to hold a meeting on March 1 and 2, 1999, in Louisville. Mr. Riebau asked for the concurrence of the Council to send a letter confirming that the Council would do so, and asking for assistance in securing hotel accommodations. The Council agreed by acclamation. Council members suggested that the Camberly Brown and Seelbach hotels be considered.

FEMA Meeting with the State of South Carolina

John Gambel reported that FEMA received a formal request to consider delegating authority for single-lot LOMAs to the professional land surveyors and engineers in the State of South Carolina. The State has offered to serve as a pilot, and wants to institute a training and certification program to ensure quality.

Mr. Gambel also requested that the South Carolina professional community be tied into the Council's meeting in December. He proposed inviting 25 to 30 people – 2 from the State (one with the S.C. Geodetic Survey who formerly worked with the National Geodetic Survey), and others from FEMA, FIA, the NFIP, Dewberry & Davis, Michael Baker Corp., ASCE,

ASFPM, ACSM, and others. The purpose of the meeting is to explore concerns and decide whether to take the next step toward local LOMA designations.

The Chairman commented that the suggestion is timely and a “good idea.” Mr. Gamble asked whether the meeting facilities at NOAA could accommodate a group this size, and stated that FEMA wants to have the meeting facilitated and minutes taken. It will be planned for the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, on December 9.

Both Wendy Lathrop and Don Hull reported that they could not attend a meeting on that date. Al LeQuang stated that he had comments about this subject, and would send them to the Council at a later time.

The Chair agreed that Council members who can attend will participate in the meeting on December 9 about the delegation of LOMA and LOMR authority. Mr. Challstrom stated that he would seek appropriate space for the meeting at NOAA if the Heinz Center were not available.

Insurance Industry Organizations

The Chairman asked for discussion about whether insurance industry organizations – specifically, the Flood Insurance Producers’ National Committee, the Institute for Business and Home Safety, and the Flood Insurance Services Companies Association of America – should be invited to participate in Council meetings, perhaps as technical advisors.

After brief discussion, the Chairman agreed that Matt Miller will draft a letter of invitation to the groups for the signatures of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Other Business

The Chairman reported that the President of the American Society of Civil Engineers had supported FEMA’s request for funds to implement the Modernization Program. John Gambel agreed to send the letter of support to the Council (and to coordinate with Mark Riebau and Charles Challstrom on the availability of NOAA space for the December 9 meeting).

Mike Moye reported a situation with a customer in which a zone determination is in question. Matt Miller asked that a copy of the paperwork be sent to him.

Wendy Lathrop asked whether a Technical Biennial Conference will be held this year. Matt Miller will find out and respond.

The Chairman determined that no FIA representative was present on the call, and stated that he would like to encourage FIA to participate. Matt Miller agreed to follow up, and asked that Lynn Sawyer and Cindy Croxdale be added to the distribution list for Council information.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Don Hull so moved, Charles Challstrom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

[original signed]

Mark Riebau
Chairman